

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 COME-00 INT-08 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

SCI-06 EPA-04 CG-00 OMB-01 /088 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ ORF/ FSE: WBWHITMAN

3/16/73 EXT 20753

APPROVED BY EB/ ORF - MR. KATZ

EB/ ORF/ FSE - MR. BENNSKY

ARA/ CAR - MR. BURKE

EB/ ORF/ FSE - MR. AKINS

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R 162303 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049372

E. O. 11652: GDS-4

TAGS - ENRG

SUBJECT: MONA ISLAND PORT- REFINERY PROJECT

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1167

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MONA ISLAND PROJECT POUCHED
TO AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 14. WE HOPING OBTAIN FULL
SET PROJECT DETAILS, INCLUDING WIND AND CURRENT MAPS,
FOR POUCHING ASAP.

2. PUERTO RICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS BACKING MONA ISLAND HAVE STRESSED TO DEPART-
MENT THAT REFINERY WOULD BE ENVIRONMENTALLY CLEAN, AND
HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT EITHER ON DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
OR ON WATERS OF MONA PASSAGE. ACCORDING TO OCEANO-
GRAPHIC SURVEYS, CURRENTS IN MONA PASSAGE RUN SOUTH TO
NORTH, THUS SHIELDING DOMINICAN COAST FROM ANY EFFLUENT
FROM REFINERY OR TANKERS. GROUP CONCEDED HOWEVER
THAT WINDS IN AREA OFTEN BLOW EAST- WEST, I. E. IN
DIRECTION OF DOMINICAN TERRITORY.

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3. BEGIN FYI: MONA PROJECT, AS PRESENTED TO US, SEEMS TO HAVE NUMBER OF POSITIVE FACTORS, BOTH FROM STANDPOINT OF OUR ENERGY SITUATION AND FROM THAT OF NATIONAL SECURITY. WE HAVE ENTERED PERIOD REFINERY CAPACITY SHORTAGE, WHICH IS LIKELY BE LONG- LASTING, AND MONA ISLAND PROJECT PROVIDES SORELY NEEDED EXPANSION OF REFINERY CAPACITY

IN CLOSE PROXIMITY U. S. EAST COAST WHICH PARTICULARLY REFINERY SHORT. DEEPWATER PORT PORTION OF PROJECT WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE THE SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS ACCRUING FROM USE OF VERY LARGE TANKERS, AGAIN IN AREA OF U. S. EAST COAST. ON NATIONAL SECURITY GROUNDS, DEPARTMENT FAVORS CONSTRUCTION OF PORT AND REFINERY FACILITIES ON U. S. SOIL OR IN U. S. WATERS TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

4. BECAUSE OF U. S. NEED FOR REFINERY CAPACITY AND COST BENEFITS OF DEEPWATER PORT, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR LARGE CAPACITY REFINERIES IN CARIBBEAN AREA, MANY WITH ACCOMPANYING DEEPWATER PORTS, AND AIMED AT U. S. IMPORT MARKET. ONE OF THESE, A 300,000 B/ D REFINERY TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY CIA REFINADORA DE PETROLEO (ITALIAN- AMERICAN GROUP) HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROVED BY GODR. DESIRE TO PROTECT THIS PROJECT MAY BE ONE OF GODR' S MAJOR CONCERNS OVER MONA ISLAND UNDERTAKING. END FYI. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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